

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJ: REPORTAGE OF TRAVELING PRESS SUNDAY, MARCH 3

FOR VEST FROM KING

FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF REPORTED TRAVELING PRESS,SUNDAY,
MARCH 3.

1. TIMES (GWERTZMAN) LEADS PAGE ONE WITH COLUMN HEAD
"ISRAEL AND SYRIA WILL SEND TEAMS TO PARLEYS IN US."
STORY BEGINS WITH AGREEMENT TO SEND DELEGATION TO WASHINGTON
LATER THIS MONTH TO CONTINUE INDEPENDENT DISCUSSIONS WITH
HAK. NEWSMEN WERE TOLD THAT A "HUGE GAP" STILL EXISTED
AND IT WAS NOT CERTAIN THAT THE WASHINTON DIALOGUE WOULD
LEAD TO AN AGREEMENT COMPARABLE TO THE ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN
ACCORD. ACCORDING TO US OFFICIALS THE TALKS WERE A
RESULT OF A SUGGESTION MADE BY HAK TO PRESIDENT ASSAD
DURING THEIR TALKS IN DAMASCUS WEDNESDAY. A SENIOR
ISRAELI OFFICIAL POSSIBLY FOREIGN MINISTER ABBA EBAN,
DEFENSE MINISTER MOSHE DAYAN, OR HIS SUCCESSOR - WOULD
COME TO WASHINGTON, BUT NO FACE-TO-FACE MEETINGS WERE
CONTEMPLATED. THE STORY STATES THAT HAK HAD THE PRISONER
LIST PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE AND HAD FIRST AGREED TO
PICK UP THE LIST IN DAMASCUS WHICH HAD VIRTUALLY BEEN
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PROMISED TO HIM BY THE SYRIANS, BUT MRS. MEIR HAD URGED

HIM NOT TO COME TO MIDDLE EAST WITHOUT IT. AS A RESULT-

AND ALSO BECAUSE HE WAS UNCERTAIN OF THE ASSURANCES HE HAD RECEIVED, HAK ASKED THE SYRIANS TO PROVIDE HIM WITH THE LIST BEFORE HE LEFT. HAK HAD KEPT THE LIST IN HIS SAFE AND THE ONLY OTHER AMERICANS WHO WERE REPORTED TO HAVE KNOWN WERE SISCO AND ONE OF HAK'S PERSONAL ASSISTANTS.

2. WASHINGTON POST (BERGER) LEADS PAPER WITH DOUBLE COLUMN HEAD "SYRIA, ISRAEL SET TALKS IN WASHINGTON." STORY HIGH UP STATES FIRST TIME EVER TWO SIDES HAVE AGREED TO HOLD FORMAL TALKS EVEN INDIRECTLY, NOTING HAK WILL BE INTERMEDIARY. IF TALKS IN NEXT TWO WEEKS BRINGS SIDES CLOSER TOGETHER, ACCORDING U.S. OFFICIALS, HAK PROBABLY WILL RESUME DAMASCUS-JERUSALEM SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY. TALKS IN EARLY STAGES, U.S. OFFICIALS EMPHASIZE, AND CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO MOVE QUICKLY BECAUSE OF "HUGE GAP" (DIRECT QUOTE) BETWEEN THEM. NEITHER SIDE HAS MADE ANY CONCESSIONS YET, OFFICIALS SAID, BUT AGREEMENT TO TALK IN WASHINGTON INDICATES THEY EVENTUALLY WILL, BUT THIS DEPENDS ON WHETHER BOTH SIDES CONSIDER SETTLEMENT TOP PRIORITY MATTER. OFFICIAL ADDED NEITHER SEEMS TO CONSIDER IT URGENT NOW. NOTES LINKAGE GOLAN SETTLEMENT AND LIFTING OF OIL EMBARGO, DESPITE OFFICIALS ASSERTION THAT ANY "SCHEDULE UNAFFECTED BY TODAY'S SETTLEMENT." HAS U.S. OFFICIALS "PROFESSED TO BE PERPLEXED" ABOUT GROMYKO'S OBJECTIVES IN TRAVEL SCHEDULES WHICH TRACK THAT OF HAK.

3. WASHINGTON STAR HAS O'LEARY ON PAGE 4 REPORTING THAT HAK BELIEVES ISRAEL, SYRIA STILL FAR APART ON DETAILS OF GOLAN SEPARATION OF FORCES. "GAP IS HUGE." JERRY O. ALSO FINDS NO SIGNS EMERGING THAT OIL EMBARGO TO BE LIFTED SOON. IN LONGEST STORY TO DATE JERRY O. HAS ONE THOUSAND WORD STORY DETAILING COMING WASHINGTON TALKS AS MODEL OF SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY WHICH BROUGHT SINAI SETTLEMENT. DESPITE MODEST GAINS WITH SYRIANS ON ISRAELI IDEAS, HAK'S EFFORTS TO SELL WASHINGTON MEDIATION PLANS A SUCCESS BECAUSE BOTH SIDES STILL NEGOTIATING EVEN THOUGH THEIR UNCLASSIFIED

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GOALS STILL FAR APART. SPECULATES WASHINGTON NEGOTIATIONS MAY FORCE CHANGE IN HAK'S TRAVEL PLANS AND INJECT ANOTHER NE TRIP INTO HIS IMMEDIATE SCHEDULE. MUCH BALANCE STORY DEVOTED TO "PROBABLE" FACT THAT HAK HAD POW LIST AND GOI IDEAS ON DISENGAGEMENT IN BRIEF CASE LONG BEFORE HE LEFT WASHINGTON ON CURRENT MISSION. ARRANGEMENT WITH BOTH SIDES WAS DETAILED AND KEPT SECRET UNTIL APPROPRIATE MOMENT".

4. AGAIN MAILS FAILED US AND WE HAVE NO OTHER STORY TO
SUMMARIZE. DONALDSON

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